

# The Connector



Iron Workers Local 498 - 5640 Sockness Dr., Rockford, IL 61109 - 815/873-9180

November 2018

## From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope everyone is enjoying the consistent amount of work that has been going on. Remember, there can be some slow times as well. The out of work list has grown a bit (less than 10), but hopefully, before too long, those will be out to work as well. The rain has not helped.

The Power plant is still going but it has laid off a couple here and there. The Americold job is holding with man power at around 50 or so and not looking currently to add more. Remember all big jobs do come to an end. The other contractors are steady with work.

This year we will be having our Christmas Party on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December at the hall from 4-8pm. I hope everyone can make it, bring your family as well. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided. There will be a drawing as well. Hope to see you there.

I appreciate everyone doing their part at election time. All the volunteers that walked door to door, did phone banking, and most of all went out to vote. It wasn't the Blue Wave the democratic party had hoped for but overall the election went well. It was the largest mid-term election turn out in recent history with 113M voters. We got back the state of Illinois and Walker in Wisconsin is gone. From what I am hearing Right to Work in Wisconsin may be gone as well possibly by Executive Order. The one Local candidate we (all of Labor Trades) were behind fully was Jake Castanza who visited our meeting. He unfortunately did not beat Cabello. The 68<sup>th</sup> District sure missed an opportunity to put a candidate in place that would have really listened to his constituents and would have worked hard for all (union and nonunion) working folks. Not the do-nothing candidate that didn't even work until the last week of the campaign. I guess incumbency has its privileges, add to that, it is a pretty Republican district and we knew it would be an uphill battle. Jake Castanza has a gift and he worked his tail off to the point where it was noticed by some prominent players in the political realm. We will support Jake in his next endeavor because he will always be working for working folks WHEN he runs and wins the next time.

Eva and I have been working to get the website up and running for dues payment online. There were some speed bumps along the way, but I believe we have figured out the reasons that it hasn't happened yet. I am hopeful you will be able to start paying online by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our Health and Welfare will be going through a change in March/April of next year. It will still be Tri-State, but the Third-Party Administrator will no longer be with Zenith American Administrator, it will be with Group Administrators (GA). I have no reason to think the transition won't be smooth and as always let me know if you are having any issues with our health plan. I will help you navigate the rules to get what you should regarding your eligibility.

For those that are getting close to the end of their careers and would like to get your pension estimates to know where you are and where you could be at your target retirement age, let us know and Eva and/or the new office manager will be happy to assist you in getting those numbers. Last week we had the second interviews for the office manager position and the new person will be starting later this month. I am sure Eva would like to go back to retirement. We should feel very fortunate she came out of retirement to help and train the new person.

Also, we have ordered sweatshirts and hats, so they will be available just in time for Christmas.

In Solidarity,  
Mark

**From the President/Organizer:**

Dear Members,

On the Organizing side of things, I would again like to thank all the members that call about jobs they see going on in the area. Work is picking up, not just for us, but for the non-union as well. There are a few things going nonunion. The Bryden Motors addition turned bad in the last minute. Precision Building Solutions is working in the Beloit and Delevan areas. Now there is work starting for the Cobb Building/Meadowlands project in Sterling, and it is going bad. I do what I can to fight on different levels. I have talked with a couple nonunion owners, and they have been receptive to the idea of going union. Some of their resistance is lack of knowledge or myths about unions. I aim to educate them in any way I can. I will keep working on them to turn their business or turn the work for our members. Work hard. Work safe. Stay strong.

On the Coordinator side of things, we are in the middle of a semester. Things are going pretty well. **Apprentices need to make sure to turn in work reports every month on time.** This helps to track hours as well as grant raises. 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR class is coming up in December. If any Journeymen need to take this class, let me know so that I can enroll you into that class. There will be another weld test before the end of the year and as soon as a date is available, I will let you know.

In Solidarity,

Ben

From the Office Manager: Since the last newsletter retired member Allan Merkle has passed away. He was a member of the death benefit program.

Also, some contractors in Wisconsin require “worker authorization forms” be completed and on file in their payroll offices. Please contact the hall to be sure you have one on file. The form is with the reciprocity forms found on the website. For some contractors this can cause issues with your pay if not on file.



The holidays are here.



**Local 498 Calendar**

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving Day  
December 14<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party – 4-8 p.m.  
December 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Member Meeting  
December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas  
January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year’s Day

Reminder, the Executive Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month. The retirees’ meeting is the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Alpine View Restaurant (Charles St. and Alpine) in Rockford. Contact Ralph Pedersen – 815/234-8163.